24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

228 From the tongue of land we pass the
443 fish-market, where a lively trade in the dwellers of the sea, here so multifarious, is carried on from early morning till late in the evening. The shark seems to be the commonest fish. Sacks full of dried and salted shark's flesh are sent into the interior, where, in times of prosperity, the Bedouins and townsfolk enjoy a piece of it with their frugal meal of bread and rice. The smell of badly dried and, consequently, somewhat decaying fish accompanies the traveller far into the wādīs of Ḥaḍramaut.

443 The bazaar of Makalla has more penetrating odours than is
386 usual elsewhere. Not far from the fish-market are the workshops where loin-cloths and head-cloths are dyed a dull blue-black with indigo, and this trade also has sickening, nauseating smell. The workers and their houses are covered with a layer of indigo.

443 A more attractive trade than these is plied in this long
286 street of the bazaar — that of the weavers and lace-makers. They weave narrow lengths of cloth with brightly coloured stripes and with very attractive fringes, which are woven separately.

443 All sorts of sweets were offered for sale at the booths; also
438 the first bright-yellow or deep-red dates, not yet quite ripe,
439 tuberous fruits, spices, the celebrated Ḥumūmī tobacco in big bundles consisting of whole dried plants; broad waist-bands, Japanese, Indian and Dutch piece-goods, sugar-loaves and rice, coffee-beans and dried coffee-husks, ginger-root and tea from Ceylon and Java, various kinds of grain, meal and *samn*, sesame oil and kerosene, matches and coffee-cups, *djambiyas*[1] and cartridges.

443- We wandered through this storehouse of Ḥaḍramaut. The salesmen had lighted their reeking lamps and torches stuck in bottles; one could only pass slowly through the swarming crowd with the smoke of the lamps mingling with the heavy odour emanating from men and things. As in a dream we

104 [1] *Djambiya*, correctly spelled *djanbīya* (جنبية), is a broad, curved dagger worn in the waist-band in front of the body.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

443 passed through this unknown world, and the desire and hope, until now cautiously suppressed, grew unconsciously within us, to enter the land that lay behind the town and to learn to know its people.

2. THE VIZIER SAYYID ABŪ BAKR BIN ḤUSĒN EL-MIḤḌĀR.

645 We made acquaintance, the morning after our arrival, with
[643] the Vizier, who, in the absence of the Sultan, deals with state affairs. Sayyid Abū Bakr bin Ḥusēn el-Miḥḍār is a man in the prime of life; he is energetic, has a congenial, alert personality, and shows absolutely no sign of opposition to the *Naṣrānīs*, the *Efrendjīs*. The heavy task of governing the Qe-
645 ᶜēṭī Sultanate falls chiefly upon his solid shoulders. His popu-
565 175 larity is supported doubly by tradition: in the first place, as sayyid he belongs to the class of spiritual and worldly leaders, for he is a direct descendant of the Prophet, and, in the second place, the house of Abū Bakr was, six generations ago, the most influential family of Ḥaḍramaut.[1] In an evil hour, in their struggle against the Bedouin tribes, they called in the help of the Yāfiᶜ, a tribe noted for its fighting qualities. Its Sultan sent help under one Qeᶜēṭī, who, after having delivered the sayyids of the el-Miḥḍār family from their enemies, took the leadership into his own hands. The power of his family expanded. In 1874 the Qeᶜēṭīs asked the British Government in Aden to intervene for the purpose of reaching a settlement in a war, which had arisen over the refusal of the Āl Kathīr to repay a sum of money which had been lent to them. On this occasion Makalla and esh-Shiḥr were, with the help of the British, taken away from the Kathīrī Sultan and handed over to the Qeᶜēṭī, but the family of el-Miḥḍār had remained the leading one of that region.

701 The Vizier declared that he had *no* objection to our journey
567 into the interior. The route via Wādī Dōᶜan was safe, provided

[1] Bent, *op. cit.*, p. 75; *A Handbook of Arabia*, i. (London, 1920), p. 542 *sq.*

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

The above figures are derived from estimates checked by sampling, except in the case of the long-staple cotton for which actual figures are available. 241

Outstanding yields of long-staple cotton have been obtained ; yields of one ton of seed cotton with a ginning out-turn of 36 per cent often occur. Yields of irrigated wheat and barley are generally high : wheat yields of 1½ tons per acre are common in the lift-irrigated districts.

Crop Processing

Cotton Ginneries. Long-staple cotton is ginned in two ginneries operated by the Abyan Board, and the total output in the 1951–52 season was 7,206 bales. At the end of 1952 plans were in hand to combine ginning equipment at one ginnery in Lower Abyan. 248 249

Oil Mills. Throughout the Protectorate sesame is crushed in primitive pestle and mortar crushers worked by camel power.

Marketing

Crops for domestic consumption are sold direct by the producer to the consumer, or through merchants, or at markets which are often weekly events in the villages and towns of the Protectorate. 443

Tobacco is exported from the Protectorate by merchants who trade in the Colony of Aden and Middle East markets. 439

Substantial quantities of fresh produce, vegetables and fruit are exported from the Protectorate to the Colony to be sold in the Colony markets.

No marketing boards for export crops exist, but the Abyan Board is at the moment in sole control of the grading, ginning and export of long-staple cotton grown in the Protectorate. 248

Research

Research on cotton and cotton breeding is carried on by the Abyan Board. 242

In the Hadhramaut, the Hadhramaut States contribute funds to an experimental area supervised by an officer of the Department of Agriculture. In this area, which was opened in 1952, investigations on crop production, crop varieties, treatments and water duties have been started.

In the Western Protectorate many varieties of deciduous fruits and citrus have been introduced over the past 14 years, and it is considered that there are sufficient trees in bearing to start on nursery propagation of suitable types. Initial trials have been made at a high-altitude demonstration area on the Audhali Plateau.

Control of Pests and Diseases

Since 1942 efforts have been made, generally with success, to control locust breeding in the Protectorate, which is subject to constant invasions by locusts from other areas. The control of covered smut of sorghum by the use of sulphur for seed treatment has been introduced to areas where damage from this plant disease is common.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM2

the interior Hadhramaut towns; and all the houses are gathered within the walls, since there is no security outside on account of the neighbourhood of the Kathīri.

(*b*) The principal towns of the Kathīri are the following:

5. **Seyyūn,** built on the slopes of Jebel Seyyūn, at the edge of a very extensive and fertile area, which stretches away to the lower ground of the wādi and is dominated by the castle of the ruling Sultan. The town is surrounded by walls of mud, embracing, within the enceinte, a great number of gardens; it is entered by a low gateway. The streets are broader and cleaner than most of the Hadhramaut towns; and the place has some pretensions to a drainage system, many of the houses having outlets for this purpose to walled pits.

Seyyūn is a town of many mosques, their number being reputed to exceed 300: the principal one, the Grand Mosque, stands on one side of the great square. The town is the intellectual centre of the Hadhramaut, the so-called Academy (*Ribāt*), an annexe of the grand mosque, being the place of assemblage of a great number of reputed savants. The market is said to be the busiest in the whole country, and is held in the square on Fridays at the termination of noon-day prayers, merchants coming to it from all parts. Hirsch, however, states that, when he was there (1893), 'there seemed to be but little trade carried on, and there were only a few stalls in the market'. The population is estimated at about 4,500.

The Seyyids of Seyyūn are very powerful and wealthy, and many of them have large castle-like houses. The palace of the ruling head of the Kathīri stands on an elevated site, and is surrounded by its own wall fortified with bastions and outstanding watch-towers. The main block of the palace is surmounted by three very conspicuous look-outs, the middle one being higher than the other two. The chief is reputed to have two or three field-pieces and some old cannon in his possession.

6. **Terīm,** some 19 miles NE. of Seyyūn, is a considerable and straggling town built along a mountain slope above a broad belt of cultivation and palm-groves which stretches away towards the east. Its population, according to Hirsch (probably the only European who has succeeded in visiting it, but who, owing to the hostility of the Seyyids, was obliged to return precipitately before he had very thoroughly explored it), was about 4,000 in 1893, and was declining. A low gate, with a large ruined fortress close by, gives entrance to the town on the Shibām side, and just within this is the main square, where the market is held: one side of the square is occupied by the principal mosque. It does not appear, however,